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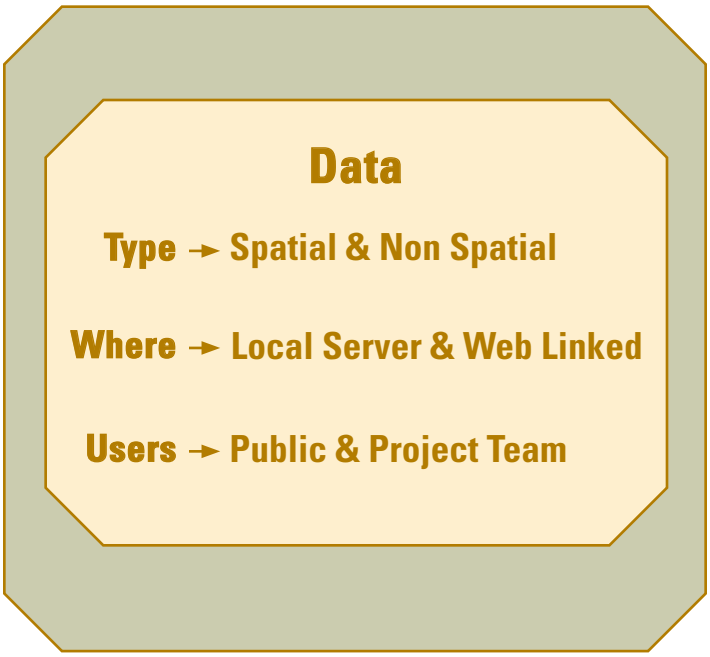
Tampa Bay Integrated Science Pilot Study
Data Information Management System (DIMS)



OVERVIEW: The Tampa Bay Pilot Study is an integrated science effort by the USGS that combines the expertise of Federal, State, and local partners to address some of the most pressing societal and ecological problems of the Tampa Bay estuary. As a pilot study, the project will serve to develop a template for application of integrated research projects in other estuaries in the Gulf of Mexico. Efficient information and data distribution for the Tampa Bay Pilot Study require the development of a database information management system (DIMS). This information system will be used as an outreach management tool while targeting public interest in the coastal resources of the Gulf of Mexico.

COMPONENTS: An Internet-based system makes wide-scale distribution possible. Data sets, reports, maps and presentations will be available for downloading over the web through a digital library. A secure portion of the site will allow managers to relay information, quickly obtain data, and follow program developments. Limited access will help preserve data integrity. As the recognized reference source for Gulf of Mexico Integrated Science information, the system will allow scientists to eliminate repetition of work and time consuming outside searches while providing uniform data among partners. The DIMS will cross over physical separation to give partners a shared workspace, increase efficiency, and save time and money.

The DIMS will include a decision support and query system (DSQS) that will consist of the following

- A geographic information system and modeling component to manage and manipulate spatial data, including an interactive map server (draft may be viewed at *http://gisweb.nwrc.gov/tampa/ims.html*);
- A database component to manage, manipulate, and catalog non spatial data;
- A web-based multimedia distribution mechanism to provide simplified data and information access to decision makers and the general public; and
- A web enabled query system for display and delivery of USGS Integrated Science Program efforts and research study sites.

PRODUCTS:

Products including databases, query systems, maps, fact sheets, open file reports, science articles, predictive models, etc. will be made available through the Gulf of Mexico Integrated Science website (*http://gulfsci.usgs.gov*). The website will provide access to general and specific information, databases, interactive data integration tools, etc. Information presented on the site, web-site navigation, and product display will emphasize integrated science efforts. Information will be targeted to a broad audience consisting of scientists, managers, decision makers, and the general public. This website will provide the foundation for access to knowledge and information from all USGS Gulf of Mexico estuary programs and other Gulf of Mexico efforts, and relevant external efforts. The site will develop and evolve as information from other investigations is compiled. The back of this fact sheet depicts the proposed Tampa Bay Pilot Study DIMS located at *http://gulfsci.usgs.gov.*

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